

The DNA of a Maturing Christian: A Tongue Under Control

James 3:2-8

²For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

What we say is an important part of our Christian identity. Our tongues are one of the hardest aspects of our life to control. Jesus can help us to take charge of this destructive part and make it productive.

Here are some steps I can take to get control of my tongue.

1. Take personal responsibility for what I say.
Romans 3:23, Matthew 12:36, 33-37, 15:11
2. Make a choice to pursue Christ.
Matthew 5:48, 1 Peter 5:10, Luke 6:45, Matthew 7:20, Galatians 5:22-23
3. Disassociate with those who corrupt me.
Proverbs 20:19, 1 Corinthians 15:33
4. Pray before I speak.
Proverbs 14:29, 15:1, 18, James 1:19-20
5. Chose to use my tongue to honor God.
 - A. Speak the truth.
Ephesians 4:25, Colossians 3:9
 - B. Speak the truth in love.
Ephesians 4:15
 - C. Use words that build.
Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:29
 - D. Let my words bring life.
Ecclesiastes 10:12, John 5:24, 6:63, Colossians 4:6